

**Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

On Possible Amendments to Rules Governing Routing of Proposed Intrastate Pipelines, *Minnesota Rules*, Chapter 4415.

Subject of Rules. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board requests comments on possible amendments to the rules in chapter 4415 governing the routing of pipelines in the state of Minnesota. A pipeline routing permit is required from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board before certain size and type intrastate pipelines can be constructed in this state, including natural gas and petroleum pipelines. The present rules have not been amended since they were first adopted in 1989. The EQB is considering amending the rules to establish new procedures for review of permit applications for new pipelines. In addition, the EQB is considering the adoption of additional rules addressing permit conditions and permit enforcement.

Persons Affected. The amendments to the rules would likely affect persons who construct and own intrastate pipelines, local units of government, and landowners.

Statutory Authority. *Minnesota Statutes*, section 116I.015, subd. 3 authorizes and directs the Board to adopt rules governing the routing of pipelines.

Public Comment. Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing until 4:30 p.m. on March 21, 2005. The Board does not contemplate appointing an advisory committee to comment on the possible rules.

Rules Drafts. The Board has prepared a draft of the possible rules amendments to *Minnesota Rules*, Chapter 4415. A public review draft of proposed amendments to the Chapter 4415 rules is available on the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board's website, <http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/eqb/index.html>.

Agency Contact Person. Written comments, questions, requests to receive a draft of the rules, and requests for more information on these possible rule amendments should be directed to: Alan Mitchell at the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, Centennial Office Building – 3rd Floor, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155; Phone, 651-296-3714; e-mail, alan.mitchell@state.mn.us. TTY users may call the Board at 800-627-3529.

Alternative Format. Upon request, this Request for Comments can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Note: Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The agency is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed.

Dated: January 20, 2005

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board